

REMARKS

The present amendment is responsive to the December 20, 2002 Office Action which was made "final".

It is respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered as placing the application in condition for allowance. If not so entered, it is requested that this amendment be entered as placing the application in better condition for Appeal.

The allowance of Claims 10 and 18 is noted with appreciation. These claims have been placed in independent form, and are therefore believed to be allowable.

Claim 7 is canceled, thereby eliminating the rejection under double patenting.

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 USC 112 because of the term "simplified" in independent Claims 1, 11 and 19. The term "simplified" has been eliminated from these claims, and such rejection is thereby overcome.

Claims 1-9, 11-17, and 19-24 were rejected under 35 USC 103 on Spears in view of McNeil, and further in view of Huard.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, and 21, are canceled.

The rejection of these claims on a combination of three references in itself suggests a lack of obviousness in the defined combinations. No reference suggests any such combination of references.

Regarding the citation in the Action, regarding combinations of references, good authority can be cited against application of plural references, such as three, etc., in claims rejections. None of the references suggests such combination of references. Virtually any inventive, claimed combination can be "anticipated" by combining features of enough references.

Rejected claims relate to location of snap fastener components, straps, shield pads, etc., which enable securement and rolling up together of shield pads. The cited references, and any prior art known to Applicant, do not suggest anything regarding the advantageous combinations of these claims.

The Examiner has cited "an umbrella" as showing a method of teaching the securing together of rolled components. An umbrella does not at all anticipate the claimed combinations defined in the claims. An umbrella does not relate to an assembly of components to provide shield pads and the rolling together and securing thereof. A person engaged in development of shield pads and their related features and advantages, would not at all be expected to look to the umbrella art.

The respective combinations defined in the respective claims remaining in the application, after cancellation of a number of claims, are believed clearly allowable. Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made".

It would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone Applicant's attorney at (626) 338-0100 to discuss any matter which would help to expedite prosecution of this application.

An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly
solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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